

TOWN OF LOS GATOS
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SUMMARY MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL PLAN
UPDATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009, HELD AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, LARGE
HALL, 110 EAST MAIN STREET, LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by John Bourgeois.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Barbara Cardillo, Jim Foley, Melanie Hanssen, Libby Lane, Tim Lundell, Jane Ogle, Joe Pirzynski, Dan Ross, Chuck Sloan, Barbara Spector, Tom Spilsbury, Deborah Weinstein, Gordon Yamate

Members absent: Marcia Jensen, Perry Hirari, Tom O'Donnell

Staff present: Wendie Rooney, Director of Community Development; Suzanne Davis, Associate Planner; Joel Paulson, Associate Planner

Consultants present: Chad Markell & Agnes Chan, Design, Community & Environment.

Public attendees: Ray Davis

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Ray Davis commented on the plans for the North 40 that were discussed at last night's General Plan Committee meeting. There was not a single word about recreation or what the community wants. The proposed sports fields and parking for 60 cars are not adequate.

ITEM 1 DRAFT GENERAL PLAN GOALS & POLICIES

Wendie Rooney introduced the item commenting that the document has been updated based on comments received at the last GPAC meeting. The Committee should go through the document and provide any additional comments.

Chad Markell, DC&E suggested going through the goals and policies first, then discussing the organization.

John Bourgeois asked if there were any comments on the glossary of terms. The Committee members felt the glossary is helpful.

John Bourgeois commented that “things” be changed to “applicant” and clarification is needed stating that the decision making body needs to weigh competing policies (page 1) It implies that only the Town Council has the ability to make changes.

Chuck Sloan commented that the language “cool roof pavement or pavement” is awkward and should be modified.

Barbara Spector commented that the definition of dual plumbing includes the terms potable water and point of sale and those terms need to be explained.

John Bourgeois suggested that the last sentence be deleted under invasive plants.

Gordon Yamate commented that examples could be provided under passive heating and cooling.

Melanie Hanssen commented that the list of organizations in the document should be comprehensive. She asked if any are more important than others. *Chad Markell* noted that that is part of the discussion.

New and revised goals and policies:

Tom Spilsbury asked if parking for different types of vehicles should be provided and whether it belongs in this location. *Chad Markell* noted that it is more of a design issues.

Barbara Spector commented that there was a line item mentioned at the last meeting about providing parking for alternative vehicles and bicycles.

John Bourgeois commented that these ideas are included in multiple sections. *Barbara Spector* commented on the need for parking if the use of bicycles is going to be encouraged. *Joe Pirzynski* noted that it needs to be addressed in terms of providing access to bicycle parking.

Chuck Sloan commented on the need for motorcycle and scooter parking and the need for plugs for electric vehicles.

Chad Markell suggested reviewing the parking standards and determining where to best address the topic.

Gordon Yamate commented that the goal T.G.1.1 might not be specific enough.

Deborah Weinstein commented that T.P.I.X isn’t really an action that can be taken and questioned why it was included. *Joe Pirzynski* noted that the language is a compromise and that the word “considered” is active.

Goal 2.4 – *Tim Lundell* asked if consider, support and encourage should be included in the glossary.

Deborah Weinstein commented that heat island should be added to the glossary.

Gordon Yamate clarified that there is a cost savings by reusing buildings rather than replacing them.

Chuck Sloan asked if “encouraged” is the right word to use in C.P.6X (14). *Joe Pirzynski* said that buy-in is needed from all cities in Santa Clara County. *John Bourgeois* suggested adding an implementing strategy. *Melanie Hanssen* suggested clarifying that the Town is committed to the concept by modifying the goal. The words “The Town should take a leadership role” should be deleted.

Barbara Spector would like clarification on how businesses would be attracted and retained (line item 20). *Chad Markell* suggested adding strategies that would accomplish the goal.

John Bourgeois commented that requiring new subdivisions to be laid out to take advantage of passive heating and cooling may not work with setbacks and allowable density. “Require” seems at odds with other criteria (line item 22). *Melanie Hanssen* commented that it could be clarified that this is required if feasible (for example, existing trees might limit site development and solar opportunity). *Tom Spilsbury* commented that there needs to be some flexibility. *Chad Markell* suggested adding the language “Examine and consider” to the beginning of the policy.

Gordon Yamate asked why water efficient landscaping is being required for multi-family and not new single-family. It was noted that this was discussed at the last meeting.

Several Committee members suggested mentioning or referencing the Town’s Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.

Joe Pirzynski commented on providing incentives for green building; clarification is needed as to what the incentives are.

Barbara Spector commented that providing expedited permit processing implies that the process is slow now. She asked what could be done differently. *Wendie Rooney* said for example, a project that exceeds title 24 requirements by 20% or more would be processed ahead of projects that meet minimum requirements.

John Bourgeois commented that the ending clause in the first goal is redundant and could be deleted (line item 32).

Joe Pirzynski commented that the reference to ‘Bay Friendly Landscape Guidelines’ is too specific. He suggested dropping the second paragraph.

Dan Ross commented on the need to bring the topic to peoples' awareness when a remodel project is being done.

Melanie Hanssen commented that drought tolerant is not necessarily all native planting (37). *John Bourgeois* noted that it is more of a conservation measure and an effort to preserve and augment native planting. *Chad Markell* suggested adding language encouraging the use of species that are indigenous to the area.

John Bourgeois would like to prohibit the use of invasive species.

New ideas/concepts:

Gordon Yamate commented that the concept of increasing densities around transit facilities should be considered.

Joe Pirzynski provided background on the Vasona light rail extension. It is important to link a transit component to the light rail terminus. Transit oriented development is also appropriate to the North 40 development.

John Bourgeois stated that a riparian corridor policy is needed. *Wendie Rooney* noted that staff is developing a policy. There is a lot of confusion about setbacks and buffers.

John Bourgeois commented that wildlife corridors are mentioned, but there isn't anything that defines it or explains what it means. Movement corridors should be identified.

Barbara Cardillo commented that controlled growth and how large the town should be isn't addressed. *Joe Pirzynski* and *Barbara Spector* agreed that this is an important topic.

Staff would like to complete the goals and policies by October 19, 2009.

Organization of the General Plan

Chad Markell said that the two options are to either flag the policies or create a separate element for sustainability. *Wendie Rooney* noted that the Town is taking a much stronger stand on sustainability and having an independent element shows that there is a Town-wide commitment to it. There may need to be some cross referencing done.

An example from Yolo County where policies are flagged with an icon, and some suggested environmental icons for the Town were presented to the Committee for consideration.

Joe Pirzynski commented that creating a separate element was not the intent when the General Plan update started. It might be more appropriate to change the title of the conservation element.

Chad Markell said the existing Conservation Element could be renamed the Environment and Sustainability Element. This can be done provided the requirement components for the Conservation Element are included. The icon will be used to cross reference.

John Bourgeois, Barbara Spector and Joe Pirzynski commented that they like the leaf best. *Barbara Spector* suggested the West Valley Green leaf as another option. The Committee consensus is a leaf should be used.

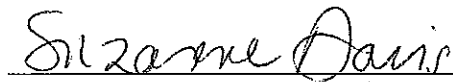
OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting of the GPAC is scheduled for October 1, 2009.

Prepared by:



Suzanne Davis, Associate Planner